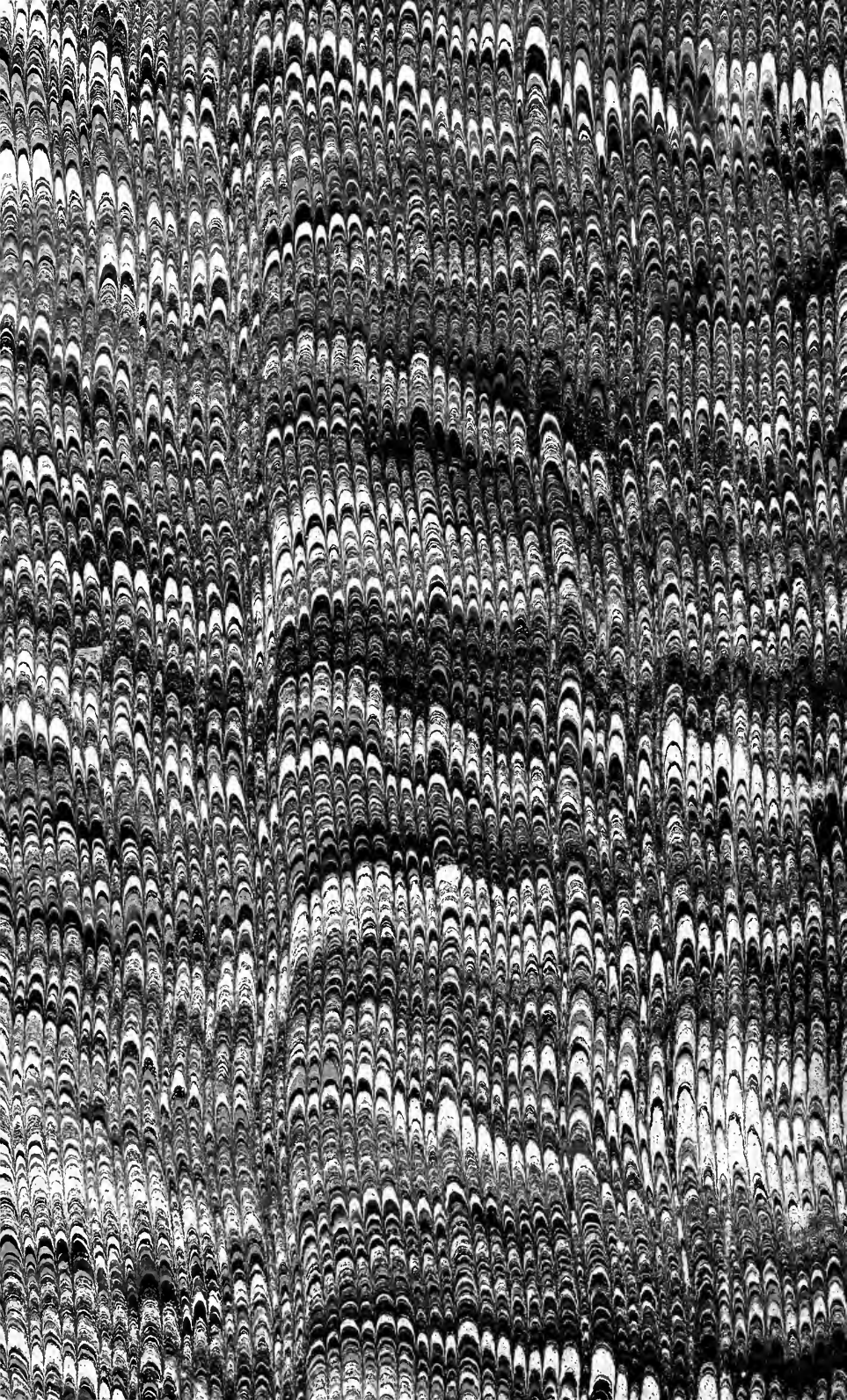

4 Hall. 197-a.

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A

GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL

ACCOUNT

OF THE FAMILY OF

MACDONALD OF SANDA.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE clan Macdonald is undoubtedly one of the most ancient in Scotland, and may, from incontrovertible evidence, be traced back to a period coeval with that of any family in this country. It is not intended, in the following genealogical account, to enter into a critical dissertation of the various accounts given of the origin of the clan, but it may not be unacceptable to state shortly the opinion of different authors, and of the clan itself, with regard to the country from which they originally came, and leave it to the reader to decide which is most worthy of credit.

Some Irish highland senachies and historians trace the genealogy of the Macdonalds from Godfrey, the son of Fergus M'Eyre, who, they say, became the founder of the Scottish kingdom; and they deduce Godfrey from Conn-Ceud-Chattach (or Con of the Hundred Battles), king of Ireland.

A. D. 125. Conn-Ceud-Chattach is said to have reigned in Ireland in the year of God 125;
152. he was succeeded by his son Airt or Art;
254. Art was succeeded by his son Cormack, and Cormack by Cairtre. During the lifetime of Cairtre, there were two powerful tribes, the Ulladh of Ulster, and the Cruithne of the north-western parts of Ireland, who were for a long time in a state of hostility. Cairtre, who was designated Cairtre-Ruadh (or Red-haired), took advantage of these dissensions, and conquered a considerable territory from the tribe Cruithne: this territory was, from

him, named Dall-ruadh. It appears from Ossian's poems, that the Fingalians fought on the side of the Cruithne, and that Oscar, whose death is deplored in such elegant and pathetic language, fell by the hands of Cairtre.

The territory of Dall-ruadh continued in the possession of the descendants of Cairtre for about two centuries and a half, when it was governed by Erc, or Eire, a lineal descendant of the conqueror. Erc left three sons, Feargus, Lavine, and Angus; but these being young, Olchu, his brother (according to the laws of Tanistry), seized the possession, and Feargus and his brothers, in A. D. 503, conducted a colony to Kintyre in Argyllshire, which they named Dall-ruadh, from their progenitor Cairtre, and their people were called by the neighbouring nations Dall-euallhmi. It is not stated whether Kintyre and the neighbouring country was con-

A. D. 503.

quered, or was possessed by consent of the people; but it was divided into three parts. Feargus got Kintyre, Lavine got Lorn, and Angus got the island of Isla.

Angus lived but a short time in Isla; he was succeeded by his son Murchad, who married his cousin Erea, the daughter of Lavine. Murchad left only one daughter, who married her cousin Godfrey, son of Fergus; by which the lands of Kintyre and island of Isla came to be united under one chief. Fergus had an elder son, named Domangurt, from whom several of the Scottish kings are descended, and particularly Kenneth Macalpin, who in 843 conquered the Picts. After this conquest, the seat of empire of the Scottish kings was transferred to Scoon, and the descendants of Godfrey, the second son of Fergus, and of his wife Erea, were allowed to retain their possessions in Kintyre, which they gradually extended; and they latterly

assumed the title of Kings of Erraghael (a corruption of Sar-gael). From this Godfrey the family of Macdonald is lineally descended*.

An old manuscript, named Lober-Derg (or the Red Book), belonging to Clanranald, gives an account of the origin of the Macdonalds, agreeing pretty nearly with that now mentioned. This book was written at different periods by the bards of the Clanranald family, and the last part of it by M'Murrick, bard to the Clanranald, and the last of the Celtic bards, about the year 1680: it also contains the traditional stories of the country. According to this account, Ochaius Duibhlin, son to Cor-

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* This account is taken from Father Innes's Critical Dissertations, Chalmers's Caledonia, Dr. Smith of Campbelltown, Monro Dean of the Isles, Account of the Isles in 1519, and other authorities.

bredus Leihmhechair, son to Cormachus, son to Arthur, son to the most illustrious Conn-Ceud-Chattach, *id est*, Centimachus (so called from his having fought a hundred battles), had three renowned sons, viz. Coll Wais, Coll na Chrioch, and Coll Mean. Coll Wais reigned in Ireland fifteen years, when one Mauritius, his cousin-german, began to usurp his kingdom. The king Coll Wais, in conjunction with his brothers, was obliged to come to a battle, wherein the usurper Mauritius proved victorious; the consequence was, that Coll fled into Scotland, where, for eminent services done to the king, he got large possessions. Some time thereafter, there happened a contest between Mauritius and the Prince of Ulster, which obliged the former, notwithstanding the discord betwixt him and the exiles, Coll Wais and his brothers, to apply for their assistance against his enemies; who, as the account says, rendering good for evil, complied with his request,

and went with all their followers to Ireland, where a very bloody battle was fought, in which the Prince of Ulster and two brothers were slain, and Mauritius obtained a complete victory. Coll na Chrioch and Coll Mean settled in Ireland, having Ulster and the half of Connaught assigned to them for the great services done to Mauritius. But Coll Wais returned to Scotland, in order to settle there on his own lands. In about nine years afterwards he went to visit his friends, and died in Ireland, about the year 337.

The ancestors of Coll Wais, back to Conn-Ceud-Chattach, were called Siol Chiunn, or the progeny of Constantine; and the descendants of Coll Wais, to Ranulf M'Somhirle, Ranald the son of Somerlett, were surnamed Siol Cholla.

Coll Wais left four sons, the eldest of whom was named Ochaius, who was suc-

ceeded by Curranus, Curranus by Erie, Erie by Mainus, Mainus by Fergus, Fergus by Godfrey, Godfrey by Neil, Neil by Suimkna, Suimkna by Mearra Aha, Mearra Aha by Solamh or Solomon, Solomon by Galen or Gillo Ahunnan, Galen by Gilbride, Gilbride by Somhairle or Somerlett, Somerlett by Reginald,—all named Siol Cholla, or the descendants of Coll Wais, and not Macdonalds up to Coll Wais. Reginald was succeeded by Donald, from whom the origin of the name of Macdonald. Reginald had a brother named Dugall, from whom the Macdougalls of Lorn are descended. Donald was king of the isles and western parts of Scotland*.

Most of the Scottish historians treat the Irish and Highland accounts as perfectly

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* Lober Derg, or Red Book, a manuscript belonging to Clanranald.

fabulous: the subject is, however, very ably handled by Dr. John Macpherson, in his Critical Dissertations. He states that the whole of the Highlanders are of genuine Caledonian extraction, and particularly alludes to Somerlett, the undoubted ancestor of the family of Macdonald. Crawfurd, Douglas, and Wood, in their Peerages, under the head of Lords of the Isles, speak of them as of Norwegian descent; but as they enter into no discussion of the subject, nor give any authority, it is doubtful from what source they have derived their information. Other accounts might be given of the origin of the Macdonalds, but it is thought quite unnecessary. The subject may, at a future period, be more fully entered upon; here, it is sufficient to state, that the first of the race of whom there are any authentic accounts on record, is Somerlett, designated by the Scottish historians Thane of Argyll, but by foreign authors, and charters extant,

King of the Isles, and Lord of Argyll and Kintyre. It is not intended, in the following Genealogical Account, to go further back than Somherle or Somerlett, King of the Isles, and Lord of Argyll and Kintyre, whose sovereignty is undoubted, and who reigned in the isles during the reigns of Alexander I. David I. and Malcolm IV. of Scotland.

There are two eras in the history of the family, which it will be necessary to keep distinct. The first embraces the period from about the year 1120 to the year 1387, commencing with Somerlett, and ending with John Lord of the Isles. During this period, the family were Kings of the Isles, and Lords of Argyll and Kintyre. The second embraces the period from John Lord of the Isles, who acknowledged himself a subject of the crown of Scotland, to the present time. And it may be proper here to take notice, that no fact of im-

portance is stated, but what is sufficiently established from the most authentic documents, the public records, or the history of the country.

A

GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ACCOUNT, &c.

CHAPTER I.

SOMHERLE, OR SOMERLETT, KING OF THE ISLES, AND LORD OF ARGYLL AND KINTYRE.

SOMHERLE, or Somerlett, King of the Isles, and Lord of Argyll and Kintyre, lived under the reigns of Alexander I. David I. and Malcolm IV. Kings of Scotland. He is by the Scottish historians designated Thane of Argyll; but it does not appear that he himself, or any of his

posterity, ever assumed that title*. His territories embraced almost all Argyllshire, and a very considerable part of Inverness-shire. He was a man possessing very great abilities, both as a general and statesman, and governed his people with much judgment. His ambition was unbounded, and his power and resources great; and from the conquests he made, he became the terror of the Scottish king and nation. It is stated, that in the earlier part of his life he assisted the King of Denmark in his wars in Sweden, and, with a number of his vassals and followers, distinguished himself so much, that Efnia, daughter of Olaus the Swarthy, King of Man, and grand-daughter of Harald Harfager, was bestowed upon him in mar-

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* In the Chronicle of Man, Annals of Ulster, and other books, he is uniformly designated Rex Insularum, or King of the Isles.

riage*. Godred, King of Man, son of Olave, having deprived many of his nobles of their possessions in the islands, Thurfin, the son of Oler, one of the most powerful of them, sought the protection of Somerlett. This was an opportunity of extending his territories, which one of Somerlett's enterprising and ambitious spirit could not neglect. Godred was at that time in Ireland, having been elected King of the Easterlings of Dublin some time before. Somerlett summoned the whole of his vassals to attend him, and, in conjunction with Thurfin and other nobles, in a short time conquered nearly all the islands adjoining his own dominions. Godred soon after equipped a powerful fleet, and proceeded for Scotland, with a view of reclaiming his losses: he was met by Somerlett off the coast of Kintyre, when an

* Chronicle of Man.

action was fought on the night of the Epiphany, with great slaughter on both sides. Next day a compromise was entered into; and such was the power of Somerlett, that he compelled the King of Man to cede to him by treaty, not only the islands of Mull, and all those north of Kintyre, which he had before conquered, but also the whole islands of Scotland, north and west of the point of Ardnamurchan: those to the south of Kintyre still remaining a part of the kingdom of Man. Godred returned to his Irish dominions, but in all probability was not very sincere in his cession of so valuable a part of his territories. The troubles in Ireland kept him from undertaking any enterprise of importance in Scotland; but, whether from his privately using undue influence with Somerlett's clan, or openly breaking the treaty, does not appear, Somerlett was compelled to invade the island of Man with a powerful fleet and army. Many

actions were fought, and much blood was shed on both sides. At last Somerlett succeeded in carrying his victorious arms over the whole island: he expelled the King of Man, who sought refuge in Norway, and placed on the throne Reginald, brother of Godred, in whose faith he seems to have had more reliance.

Malcolm, or Wymund, Mac Aod, Earl of Murray, or rather Celtic prince of the country, married a sister of Somerlett's, and by her had several children. The family became connected with the royal family of Scotland, and one of their descendants was a competitor for the crown on the death of the Maiden of Norway.

The immense accession of power which Somerlett acquired by the conquest of the isles, the extensive territories which he possessed on the mainland, joined to his warlike disposition, made him be looked

upon by the king and nobles of Scotland with a most jealous eye. He designated himself King and Prince of the Isles, Lord of Argyll and Kintyre, and acknowledged no superior.

In the first year of the reign of Malcolm IV. of Scotland, then a minor, the nobles having attempted to deprive the sons of Malcolm, Earl of Murray, of some of their rights, Somerlett instantly flew to arms, for the purpose of protecting his nephews. Before any action was fought, the parties came to terms very favourable for the Murray family, and such as showed unquestionably the very great power of Somerlett*.

Two years afterwards, the nobles of Scotland having combined to crush the

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* Duncan, Stewart, Buchanan, &c.

power of the Earls of Galloway and Murray, these noblemen applied to Somerlett; the latter of whom, as already said, was his nephew. Somerlett again took up arms, in conjunction with Donald Mac-Beth, grandson of Mac-Beth the usurper of the Scottish throne, and spread such terror into the country, that Walter, the High Stewart of Scotland, was compelled, before even risking an engagement, to come to terms, and conclude a peace. The enterprising spirit of Somerlett could not long be at rest: he gradually extended his territories during his life, and his power became so extensive, that the government of Scotland was kept in constant dread of him. Whether he really aspired at the crown of Scotland during the minority of Malcolm IV. or the nobles made this a pretence to attack him, does not appear; but war was declared against him. It was uniformly a maxim with

Somerlett to act upon the offensive, and he accordingly marched against the king's forces; but a peace was concluded before any action was fought. Some authors say that he was totally defeated, and compelled to fly to Ireland; but this appears very incredible, for in a short time afterwards he was more formidable than ever; and that there was a peace concluded, and that honourable to Somerlett, is evident from a charter preserved by Dalrymple*. This charter is granted by Malcolm IV. to Innes of Sandside, and is dated "*apud Pert* Natali Domini proximo post concordiam regis et Somerledi." Nothing can more clearly prove the great power of Somerlett than this charter: had he not been an independent prince, the King of Scotland would not have assumed, as an

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* Dalrymple, page 425.

epoch in his calculations of time, such a circumstance; and had he not been held in dread by the crown, and the peace with him been conceived one of the most remarkable events of the age, there is little probability that it would have been handed down to posterity.

A. D. 1161. In the year 1164, or, as others say, 1161, Somerlett again declared war against King Malcolm IV. Whether he was compelled to this by the king breaking faith with him, or he was seriously determined to conquer Scotland, are subjects about which authors have differed. But King Malcolm sent him a message, intimating that he would receive a remission of all offences, on condition that he would give up his whole territories on the mainland, content himself with the islands, and become a subject of the king. Such a message appeared to Somerlett of a very extraordinary nature;

never having acknowledged the King of Scotland, it was not easy for him to brook the affront. He sent for the messenger, drew his sword, and said, "This shall decide the dispute."

Aware that such an answer was what the King of Scotland might expect, and following his old plan of acting on the offensive, he instantly equipped a powerful fleet of 160 sail, and steered his course directly for Clyde. His army was landed near Renfrew, where the king's troops lay, under the command of the High Stewart of Scotland.

Reginald, the eldest son of Somerlett, was at this time engaged in a long and arduous civil war with his younger brother Angus; and Dugald, his second son, remained in command of his father's territories.

Somerlett offered the king's troops battle, but was treacherously slain by Maurice Mac Neill, a kinsman of his own, bribed by the High Stewart. His death is variously related by authors. The Chronicle of Man has it, that he encountered the king's troops, was vanquished by a small number of the men of Renfrew (the hereditary tenants of the Stewarts), and slain, together with his son, whose name is not mentioned. Simson states, that his son Dugald was killed at Renfrew, and he himself taken prisoner and hanged. Other Scottish historians say, that both he and his son were taken prisoners and executed, and his army cut in pieces; while Crawford, in his Peerage, maintains, that he was slain at Renfrew, together with his son Gillicallum.

Simson's account is evidently erroneous, because Dugald, at his father's death, suc-

ceeded to a considerable part of his territories, and was the great Lord of Lorn, so much dreaded by the Scottish nation. The Scottish historians have assumed as a fact the account given in the Chronicle of Man, that an action was fought, while there is little or no probability of it: they conjure up a Gilchrist, Earl of Angus, as the general of Malcolm, who certainly did not exist at that time, as is proved by Dalrymple, in his Collections. The Chronicle of Man is not, in this respect, to be relied upon, for it was written by one not very friendly to Somerlett; and perhaps as much faith is to be put in the Highland Senachies as in any other. They say that Somerlett had the means and power to conquer Scotland; but that King Malcolm's general, dreading that power, bribed Maurice Mac Neill to assassinate him and Gillicallum; on which his troops, having neither of his sons to head them,

dispersed, and returned home, excepting some stragglers, who went in quest of plunder, and were killed by the people of the country. The account of Somerlett's death is treated of, with much ability, by an author and critic of considerable authority*. If Somerlett was killed, and his army cut to pieces, it does not appear that his successors suffered any injury by such a complete discomfiture. The two eldest sons of Somerlett, Reginald and Dugald, without the smallest opposition, entered upon the possession of their inheritance, of which the king never attempted to deprive them, nor did the King of Man attempt to reclaim the islands wrested from him. Reginald, the eldest son, continued King of the Isles, and never acknowledged allegiance to

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* Dr. John Macpherson.

the King of Scotland. All this is incredible, if Somerlett's army had been destroyed.

Somerlett married, 1st, Effrica, daughter of Olaus, King of Man, and sister of Godred, who ceded the isles to him. By her he had,

1st. Reginald, King and Lord of the Isles, and Lord of Argyll and Kintyre.

2d. Dugald, Lord of Lorn.

3d. Angus, who with his three sons were killed by Reginald in battle.

4th. Gillicallum, assassinated at Renfrew.

5th. Olaus, whose posterity cannot be traced.

6th. A daughter, married to Wymund, Earl or Celtic Prince of Murray.

Somerlett married, 2dly, a sister of Fergus, Lord of Galloway. By her he had no issue.

Some time before the death of Somerlett, he divided his territories in the following manner. To Reginald, his eldest son, he gave the ancient hereditary principality of Kintyre, with all the islands, excepting Mull, and some others, which he left to Angus.

To Dugald he gave the lands of Lorn, Morvern, and Ardnamurchan, and small islands attached; and to Angus he left that part of his dominions north of the promontory of Ardnamurchan, with the small islands of Rum, Eigy, Canna, Uist, and Barra, as also the isle of Sky, all to

be held of Reginald. Angus, before his father's death, rebelled against him, and a bloody civil war was carried on betwixt him and Reginald. This was latterly terminated by the death of Angus, and of his three sons, in battle; by which means Reginald came into the possession of all his father's territories, except the lands given to Dugald.

CHAPTER II.

REGINALD, SECOND KING OF THE ISLES, AND LORD OF ARGYLL AND KINTYRE.

Reginald, immediately after his father's death, assumed the sovereignty of the isles, and designated himself King of the Isles, and Lord of Argyll and Kintyre. At no period of his life did he ever acknowledge any superiority in the kings of Scotland, but uniformly acted against them.

William the Lion, king of Scotland, having succeeded his brother King Malcolm IV. in 1165 (one year after Somerlett's death), shortly afterwards went into France with King Henry the Second of England. Differences soon arose between A. D. 1165.

these monarchs relative to the restoration of Northumberland to the Scottish king, who returned to his dominions, and invaded England in 1173, and again in 1174, when he was taken prisoner at the siege of Alnwick, carried to France, and compelled by King Henry to become his liegeman even for Scotland. During all this time, Reginald continually kept the Scottish kingdom in awe of him; but being engaged in settling some commotions in his own territory, and King William being fully employed with his English neighbours, no declaration of war or act of hostility on either side took place*.

Angus, the younger brother of Reginald, having obtained from his father, prior to his death, that part of his dominions north and west of the promontory of

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* Chartulary of Paisley, App. No. 3. Chronicle of Man.

Ardnamurchan, to be held of Somerlett, very soon afterwards refused to render the necessary service, and Reginald was sent to reduce him to obedience. Angus's lands stretched along the sea-coast, from the point of Ardnamurchan to Glensheal: from thence they went in a southwardly direction, nearly in the line of the present divisions of Ross and Inverness-shire, and then towards the west by the great valley through which the Caledonian canal is now cutting, and thence north again to Ardnamurchan. He was also possessed of the isle of Skye, and the small adjacent islands. The whole of this district of country is very mountainous, and Reginald found no small difficulty in subduing it. During his father's lifetime, he was unable to accomplish his purpose; but his attention being undivided after his death, and having no fears from the Scottish king after the death of Malcolm IV. he marched a powerful army into Moidart,

and fought a severe battle, in which his brother, Angus, and his three sons, were slain. He then reduced the whole country to obedience, and annexed it to his own territories. Angus, prior to his death, built the castle of Dunvegan, which was bestowed by Reginald on the Mac-Leods of Lewis. This castle had been the ordinary residence of Angus.

The various revolutions and transactions among the petty kings of Ireland frequently induced one or other of them to apply to the Kings of the Isles for aid; and Reginald was very active, at different times, in lending his powerful assistance. Godred, King of Man, having been driven from his territories in Ireland, and having died in the year 1187, was succeeded by his natural son, Reginald, to the exclusion of his lawful son, Olave, who was a minor. Reginald's daughter married Allan, Earl of Galloway, the most powerful subject

in Scotland; and having made a league with them, sailed for Ireland, to recover the possessions of Godred. A peace was concluded, and Reginald having returned home*, entered, on the 8th of February, 1205, into a league with John, King of England, and afterwards swore fealty to him on the 16th of May, 1212, as his liege-lord, for some lands which he had obtained in Galloway†. He founded the abbacy of Sagadull, or Saddell, in Kintyre, and granted to it the lands of Glensagadull, and the twelve merkland of Ballibean, in the lordship of Kintyre. This is established by a charter of confirmation, extant in the Reg. Mag. Sig. 1st January, 1507. The charter confirms a deed granted to the Bishop of Lismore by Reginald; and he is designed "Re-

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* Chronicle of Man. Dr. John Macpherson.

† Rymer's Fœdera.

ginaldum filium Sorleth qui se Regem Insularum, Dominum de Ergile et Kintyre, dicti monasterii fundatorem." He also granted to the same abbacy the twenty merk-land of Cestrin, in Arran, as is proved by the same charter, and *unum denarium ex qualibet domo*, as will be seen from the Chartulary of Paisley, page 377. Reginald married Fonia, sister of Allan, Earl of Galloway; by whom he had, 1st, Donald, his heir; 2d, Roderick, who obtained the whole lands which had belonged to Angus, the son of Somerlett, as will be afterwards particularly mentioned.

CHAPTER III.

DONALD, KING OF THE ISLES, AND LORD OF ARGYLL AND KINTYRE.

On the death of Reginald, Donald, his eldest son, took peaceable possession of his territories. The first act of his administration was to confirm to his younger brother, Roderick, the lands north and west of Ardnamurchan, which had been left him by his father: he afterwards visited the whole of his own possessions, and put them in a complete posture of defence. He had to guard not only against the great power of Alexander II. King of Scotland, but also against a near kinsman and neighbour of his own, John, the son of Dugald, son of

Somerlett, who was Lord of Lorn, the most ambitious man of his time, a very powerful chief, and who gave serious trouble to the kings of Scotland. He uniformly remained upon the best terms with Harold, King of Man, and Haco, King of Norway; by which means Donald, King of the Isles, was under the necessity of being exceedingly watchful and active.

A. D. 1248. In the year 1248, Alexander II. of Scotland, having reduced his own kingdom to obedience, formed the resolution of subjecting the kingdom of Man, and the Isles, to his government. Afraid, however, of the great power which would be brought against him, should John, the Lord of Lorn, and Donald, King of the Isles, join with Harold, King of Man, and satisfied, also, that Harold would obtain the most powerful assistance from Haco, King of Norway, he first attempted

to weaken their power by bribing, or sowing dissension amongst the allies. With this view, he applied to Donald, and represented to him that Haco had claimed, as King of the Isles, homage and tribute, which (as the Islands were conquered) he was not entitled to; and that, if he would lend his assistance, that homage and tribute should be for ever discharged, and the kingdom of the Isles should be for ever confirmed to him, notwithstanding its having been originally a part of the Scottish territories.

This proposal was treated by Donald with disdain. Had it been acceded to, he was aware that it would have been tacitly acknowledging Haco's right to tribute and homage; and the very acceptance of a confirmation of the kingdom of the Isles by the King of Scotland would have proved the latter king's title to grant it.

Thwarted in this, Alexander next despatched two ambassadors to the court of Haco, with an offer of a considerable sum in lieu of the Isles, which was likewise rejected; and then attempts were made to withdraw John of Lorn from the alliance, by offering him the earldom of Athol. John's views were different, and the proposal met with no better reception than the others had done*.

Harold, King of Man, had died very shortly before this, and Haco committed the administration of all public affairs to John, till he should send some of the Norwegian nobles to succeed him.

A. D. 1249. John held the impregnable castle of Kernaburg, in the western part of the island of Mull, and other strong holds

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* Torfœus.

belonging to the kingdom of Man; of which, regardless of the people's wish, and his faith to Haco, he declared himself king, marched into the island of Man, and took possession of it*.

The whole of Alexander's plans being thus defeated, he next year equipped a powerful fleet, resolved on a conquest of the whole islands. He sailed round Kintyre, which belonged to Donald; but finding him too well prepared, he bent his course to Lorn, with a view of attacking the island of Mull, which John held of the King of Norway, having agreed to pay him tribute. John was then in Man, and the conquest, it was thought, would be an easy one; but, before any operations of importance were undertaken, Alexander

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* Dr. John Macpherson. Buchanan. Chronicle of Man. Duncan Stewart.

died in the island of Riararey, near the sound of Mull.

Haco having received information of John's usurpation of the kingdom of Man, determined to drive him from it, and applied to Donald for his co-operation. This was the more readily given, as the acquisition of such immense territories would infallibly lead John to greater conquests; and the kingdom of the Isles might be in danger from his well-known faithlessness. The people of Man, ill-affected towards him, succeeded in driving him from the country, and, with the aid of Donald, placed Magnus, the son of Olave, on the throne, in the year 1250, and Haco formally recognised his title*.

After this period, the reign of Donald

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* Chronicle of Man. Torfœus. Buchanan.

presented one continued scene of peace: his territories being always in the best state of defence, he had little to fear from external enemies. Alexander the Third of Scotland was a boy of eight years old; the power of John of Lorn was exceedingly diminished by his defeat, and consequent ejection from Man; and Donald was upon the best terms with the Kings of Norway and Man, in consequence of the powerful assistance he had given them.

This chief added certain lands to the abbacy of Sagadull, founded by his father, and confirmed the whole of his father's grants by charter, in which he is designated *Donaldi filij Reginaldi Somerledd.* From this great man the surname of Macdonald was adopted, and has uniformly been continued by the clan. He had two sons: 1st, Angus, designated Angus Moir, or Great Angus: 2d, Alexander.

A. D. 1252. Before his death, which happened in the year 1252, he settled upon his second son, Alexander, certain lands in the west of Kintyre. From him the families of the Loup. Mac Alisters of Loup, and of the Earls of Earl of Stirling. Stirling, and the other Alexanders in the south of Scotland, are descended; one of whom went over to Ireland, and was the Earl of Caledon. progenitor of the Earls of Caledon, who use the arms of the Macdonalds. Alexander is witness to a charter of confirmation granted by his brother to the abbacy of Sagadull, in the Chartulary of Paisley.

CHAPTER IV.

ANGUS, FOURTH KING OF THE ISLES, AND LORD OF ARGYLL AND KINTYRE.

Immediately after the death of Alexander the Second, King of Scotland, his son, Alexander the Third, being a boy, the kingdom was rent asunder by factions amongst the nobility, and particularly by the furious conduct of the Cumins, the most powerful family of the land. These factions, for about eight years, occupied the minds of the rulers of the kingdom too much to afford them leisure to prosecute any scheme against the independence of the islands of Scotland; and it was not until the death of Walter Cumin, Earl of Monteith, in 1258, and the suppression of

the Earl of Buchan, and some others of the name, that the conquest of the islands was thought of. Attempts, similar to those made during the reign of the preceding monarch, were then renewed to corrupt the Kings of the Isles, but with no better success. John, Lord of Lorn, however, disappointed in his views on the kingdom of Man, and severely kept under by Angus, entered into a league with Alexander the Third; and having also, by great promises, induced the Earl of Ross to join him, they for a time committed the most cruel ravages in some of the islands, burning the towns, monasteries, and churches, and killing all who fell in their way. The news of these deplorable ravages soon reached Haco, King of Norway, who, fitting out a powerful fleet, steered his course for Scot-

A. D. 1263. land in the year 1263. He arrived at Shetland in July, and having settled his affairs there, proceeded first for the island

of Lewis, and afterwards to Skye, where he was joined by Magnus, King of Man, and by Angus Moir, King of the Isles. Angus became his pilot to Riararey, an island near the Sound of Mull, and in the neighbourhood of the castles which had been entrusted to John of Lorn, and had not been rendered up by him. There they were joined by the whole fleets of Man and the Isles*.

After a long consultation, it was agreed that Magnus should sail, with a squadron of 50 ships, to reduce John of Lorn, while Angus should command another fleet, and recover the island of Bute, which having been surprised by Walter, son of Allan, Great-Stewart of Scotland, about the year 1090, was annexed to the Scottish crown, and from that period remained in the

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* Buchanan.

Stewart family. Angus landed, reduced the castle of Bute, and the whole island; and, after refreshing his men, made frequent incursions into the counties of Ayr and Dumfries, and likewise sailing up the Clyde, laid all the neighbourhood under severe contributions. Haco, in the mean time, sailed to Arran, with the view of supporting either fleet, but found both victorious.

The posture of affairs then rendered it necessary for Alexander, if possible, to come to an accommodation, and frequent overtures were unsuccessfully made, the terms being considered too disadvantageous for a victorious army; and Haco, suspecting that time only was aimed at, despatched Angus and Magnus into Loch Long, at the mouth of the Clyde, who, marching into the country, destroyed all the villages skirting Loch Lomond, and carried fire and sword wherever they went.

The Scots did not dare to attack them, but hung on their rear during their return to their vessels with their plunder. It was with no small surprise they discovered that a great part of their fleet had been destroyed by a tempest, during their absence; and this animating the Scots, a smart engagement ensued, which, however, ended in Angus repelling them, after receiving as great a reinforcement as Haco, in his distressed situation (for he had come up the Clyde), could afford him. Next day, the Scots, having received a great acquisition of strength, again attacked Angus and Magnus; which being observed by Haco, he resolved to land and share their fate, but was dissuaded by the men of his council; on which he commanded his troops to be put on shore. The storm raged with such fury, that seven or eight hundred men only could be landed; yet, with this small reinforcement, did Angus and Magnus engage the whole Scottish

force, and ultimately not only beat them, but continued the pursuit a considerable way, and afterwards, in perfect safety, returned to their ships. The season being then far advanced, Haco returned to winter quarters in Orkney, where he soon afterwards died, and Angus to his own territories*.

Haco, King of Norway, was succeeded by his son Magnus, who was of an unwarlike disposition, but at the same time little inclined to give up any of his rights. To him Alexander the Third sent an em-
A. D. 1264. bassy, in the year 1264, to treat with regard to the Isles, but it was dismissed in consequence of Alexander's insisting on the Hebrides being ceded to him. In
A. D. 1265. the year 1265 another embassy was sent to him; but the same terms being pro-

* Torfœus, Dr. J. Macpherson, Chronicle of Man.

posed, it was in the same way dismissed. A peace was at last concluded, at Perth, in the year 1266. On the part of Magnus, King of Norway, there appeared the chancellor and one of the barons of the kingdom: and Alexander himself, his clergy, and nobles, were present on the other side. Magnus agreed to wave all claim in future to Man and the Sodorian Isles; and, amongst other terms, it was especially concluded, that the inhabitants of the islands ceded to the crown of Scotland should enjoy all the heritages and privileges granted to them by the Kings of Norway, without being brought to account for any thing they had done before that time; and that all allies of the King of Norway should be protected in their persons and properties. A. D. 1266.

On the other hand, Alexander agreed, for himself and his successors, to pay, as an equivalent for the rights given up,

four thousand merks sterling within four years, and an annual pension, in all time to come, of one hundred merks sterling, to be paid in the church of St. Magnus in Orkney. Thus were the whole islands forming the kingdom of Man, excepting Orkney and Shetland, ceded to the crown of Scotland. Some of the Scottish authors have put a very different colour upon the whole of this transaction. They have stated, that Haco was totally defeated at Larges, and that his son, Magnus, who had come from Norway, seeing no probability of a reinforcement of troops, felt the necessity of concluding a definitive treaty of peace shortly after the battle. These historians take care not to give the date of the battle of Larges, or Largs ; but it is preserved in the Chronicle of Man, written by the author at the very time; and it happened in the year 1263. If the Norwegians had been totally defeated, and the whole islands in the possession of the

King of Scotland at that time, it may be asked, what was the reason that no attempts were made by Magnus to recover any of them during a period of three years? or how did it happen that embassies were twice sent by Alexander into Sweden? Above all, the kings of Norway still continued to claim from Angus, but never received or attempted to enforce, payment of ten merks of gold annually, for the islands ceded to Somerlett, which were nearly the whole ceded to Alexander; and the King of Scotland agreed to pay four thousand merks, and one hundred merks yearly, for a nominal homage and tribute, which had never been exacted, and which he and his successors never even attempted for centuries to demand payment of. Four thousand merks, and one hundred merks annually, was an immense sum in those days; and it is out of all reason to suppose that Alexander would have agreed to pay it, had he reduced the

power of Magnus to so low an ebb as the Scottish historians say. In the whole of the treaty a battle or defeat is not even hinted at. Alexander, it is said, undertook an expedition, for the purpose of compelling Angus to pay the homage and tribute to himself which he was in the practice of paying to the king of Norway; but neither homage nor tribute was paid, nor had Alexander any right to it. The islands in the possession of Angus had been acquired by conquest from Godred, and no tribute had ever been paid for them, though the sum was nominally kept up. Angus, therefore, neither was a rebel, as the Scottish authors assert, nor was Alexander his liege lord for any part of his territories, which were held by him as freely as Scotland was held.

Nothing can show the extreme ignorance of most of the Scottish historians, with regard to the transactions during this

period, more clearly than their constantly naming Donald as the then Lord of the Isles. Donald died before the year 1253; for there is extant, in the Chartulary of Paisley, a Charter by Angus, son of Donald, confirming his father's and grandfather's grants to the abbacy of Sagadull, dated in that year; and Angus could never have confirmed a grant of his father's, had he been alive. This, of itself, proves that the Scottish authors were writing perfectly at random, and assuming, as facts, foolish and imperfect traditions, without ever inquiring into their truth.

Alexander the Third, having acquired the whole territories forming the kingdom of Man, excepting the islands of Orkney and Shetland, immediately set about placing them on a proper footing. In this he was much thwarted by his old ally, John of Lorn, against whom the Lord High Stewart was sent, who brought

him to reason, and stripped him of Ardnamurchan, and some other parts of his territories. Angus in the mean time enjoyed, uninterruptedly, all his dominions, but became upon good terms with Alexander, who conferred upon him the lands taken by John of Lorn, to be held of him as liege-lord.

A. D. 1284. On the 5th of July, 1284, Alexander assembled his nobles at Scoon; when Margaret, named the Maid of Norway, was declared, by a special deed, heir to the crown. At this convention Angus appeared as liegeman for the territory of Ardnamurchan, and he is named in the deed accordingly; and the acquisition of so powerful a person must have been of great importance.

In the year 1288, when the regency of Scotland came to be divided in opinion among themselves, Angus entered into a

bond of association with James, High Stewart of Scotland (who separated himself from the other regents), with John, his brother Walter, Earl of Monteith, and his two sons, Robert Bruce, the Earl of Dunbar, and others, on the one part; and Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester, and the Earl of Ulster, on the other part. The allegiance of the two latter to the King of England, and of the former to him who should acquire the kingdom of Scotland by right of blood, was excepted *. This treaty came to nothing; and Angus retired to his territories, where he died, at a very advanced age, about the year 1290.

Angus was a very great benefactor to the abbacy of Sagadull. He confirmed all his father's and grandfather's grants; and granted to it no less than four charters

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* Duncan, Stewart, Buchanan.

of lands, in the years 1253 and 1261, as appears from the Chartulary of Paisley*.

Angus left three sons.

1st. Alexander, who succeeded.

2d. Donald, from whom the Robertsons of Struan, and others of the name, are descended. In Rymer's Fœdera he is designed *Filius Augusii.*

3d. John, from whom the Mac Eans of Ardnamurchan, and many of the families of Johnstone, are descended.

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* Appendix.

CHAPTER V.

ALEXANDER, FIFTH KING OF THE ISLES, AND LORD OF ARGYLL AND KINTYRE.

ALEXANDER succeeded his father without any opposition, but enjoyed his inheritance for a very short time. He was an old man at his father's death, and was ill adapted for a ruler in the troublesome times in which he lived. He took little part in the competition for the crown of Scotland, so hotly contested between Bruce and Baliol, but rather inclined towards the former. He received a letter from King Edward, whose sway was unlimited at the time, to keep the peace till the meeting of the parliament of Scotland, which was summoned on the day of St. Thomas the

Martyr, in the year 1292 *; and he died in the beginning of the year 1303, leaving one son, Angus Oig, or Young Angus.

Alexander gave the two merk-land of Craigvain, in the island of Gigha, to the abbacy of Sagadull, and confirmed his father's grants †. Some authors have doubted the existence of Alexander altogether, and have supposed that Angus Oig, who succeeded him, was the son of Angus Moir; but this is completely disproved by a charter of confirmation granted by him to the abbacy of Sagadull, preserved in the Chartulary of Paisley. This charter confirms a deed granted by his father; and he is designed "Filius et hæres Domini Angusii, filius Donaldi, Dominus Insularum." He is likewise de-

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* Rymer's Fœdera.

† Chartulary of Paisley.

signed "Dominus Insularum" in a charter of confirmation, 1st January, 1507, to the Bishop of Lesmore, of various deeds, granted by the kings of the Isles to the abbacy of Sagadull.

CHAPTER VI.

ANGUS, SIXTH KING OF THE ISLES, AND LORD OF ARGYLL AND KINTYRE.

Angus, King of the Isles, was, throughout the whole course of his life, a firm supporter of Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, and was a man of great bravery and abilities, which, at different periods of his life, he displayed in an eminent degree. Born to princely territories, and living in an age of anarchy and confusion, he not only preserved entire his dominions, but greatly added to the renown and glory of his ancestors. His father and grandfather were rather inclined to support the interest of Bruce; but the part which he took was decided. He does not seem to have been

led to this by any political motive, but from a strong sense of the necessity of checking the growing power of the kings of England, who had reduced the Scottish nation to the lowest ebb. John, Lord of Lorn, who, as already said, revolted from the Scots, espoused most warmly the cause of Baliol; and, from his territories joining those of Angus, had they leagued together, in all probability Bruce would never have reigned in Scotland; but Angus was aware of the ambition of John, and was also satisfied that, if Edward the First once fairly got footing in the Highlands and Isles, his power would be at an end, and perhaps his family. He took every opportunity, therefore, of keeping John in check, till his own affairs and dominions should be finally settled, and he then acted with resolution and judgment. Robert Bruce, having been crowned at Scoon, on 27th March, 1306, undertook the reduction of Perth, which was com-

manded by Pembroke, the English guardian of Scotland. In this he was unsuccessful, and was compelled to retreat into the fastnesses of Athole, then belonging to the earl of that name, one of his most steady friends. Here he endured the greatest privations and hardships for some time, and then went to Aberdeen, but was driven to Breadalbane, over which he wandered for a considerable time, changing his place of retreat daily, nay hourly. His only companions of note were his brother Edward, the Earl of Athole, Douglas, Gilbert de la Haye, and Nigil Campbell of Lochow. He had not, in the whole, above four hundred men*.

Alexander of Lorn, son of John, had married the aunt of Cumin, who was slain by Bruce in the Franciscan church of

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* Duncan, Stewart, Buchanan.

Dumfries for treacherous conduct towards him. Hearing that Bruce was on the borders of Argyll, he resolved to attack him, and revenge Cumin's death. An opportunity soon occurred, and a very fierce action was fought. The whole power of Alexander was brought into the field; and it is not to be wondered at that Bruce, with a few exhausted followers, should have been overthrown. He, however, with the utmost gallantry, placed himself in the rear of his men, and covered their retreat. During this period he had constant communication with Angus. Winter drawing near, no enterprise of any importance could be undertaken; and Angus, therefore, earnestly invited him to Kintyre, where he would be secure. After many hardships, he at last arrived at the castle of Dunaverty, where he was most hospitably entertained. Having continued there for some time, Angus accompanied him to the island of Rachrin,

off the coast of Ireland, which belonged to him, and a consultation was held as to the manner of conducting future operations. It was then agreed upon that Angus should return to the main land, should give out that King Robert was killed, and secretly draw together a body of troops. The story obtained little credit. The troops, however, were assembled, and Bruce found that in the spring he would be able to undertake some enterprise of importance.

During this time the motions of Bruce were narrowly watched by the Lord of Lorn and the Cumins, who drew their whole forces together on the borders of the territories of Angus, under the belief that an enterprise would be attempted from that quarter.

A. D. 1307. In the very commencement of the year 1307 Angus picked out a chosen body of

troops, which he had placed under the command of Donald, the son of Angus Moir, and his own grand-uncle, an old and experienced soldier. These troops, together with some others from Lochow, were carried by Bruce to the island of Arran. From thence a person of confidence was sent to ascertain the affections of the people of Carrick, the hereditary lands of Bruce. The messenger found the country in possession of the English, Percy holding the strong castle of Turnberry, and the people dispirited and dejected. Notwithstanding this deplorable state of matters, Bruce landed, attacked the English in the neighbourhood of Turnberry, totally routed them, and pillaged their quarters. Succours having arrived to the aid of Percy, (who remained in the castle,) afraid to venture against Bruce, he was compelled to retreat to the mountains. The whole troops he had brought with him did not exceed three hundred

men; but these were Highlanders of tried bravery, inured to fatigue and hardships.

Bruce, with this chosen body, wandered up and down for a considerable time, attempting to animate the minds of his people of Carrick. The dangers he underwent, and the perilous escapes he made, were numerous. He, however, gradually drew together a considerable number of men, with whom he marched and attacked the Earl of Pembroke, who had advanced to meet him. Bruce was entrenched at Loudon Hill. The action was a desperate one; but Pembroke was completely defeated. It was fought on the 10th of May, 1307. On the 13th of the same month Bruce again encountered and defeated the English, under the command of Ralph de Monthermer. The slaughter was great, and the English retreated to the castle of Air, which was blockaded; but the Scots were compelled to retire on hearing of

the advance of Edward the First with a powerful army.

Edward the First died on the 7th of July, 1307, near the Solway Frith, and his son, Edward the Second, marched as far as Cumnock, in Ayrshire ; from whence he retreated without ever almost seeing an enemy. This retreat gave spirit to Bruce and to his partisans. He, a little before then, had been joined by a few more of the troops of Angus, who had escaped from the unfortunate encounter at Lochryan in Galloway, commanded by Thomas and Alexander, brothers of Bruce ; and he found himself in a condition to act more openly upon the offensive. He invaded Galloway, ordered the people to repair to his standard, and laid waste the country on their refusal. The whole troops of England then marched against him ; but he made good his retreat to Inverness, and overrun the whole country.

During the whole of these transactions, the chief of the men whom Bruce led were those furnished by Angus. Amidst all the vicissitudes of fortune they never forsook him; but, on his return to Inverness, they went home, as was uniformly the practice in those days, and were replaced by others. Bruce was victorious against all who opposed him, and in the year 1308 turned his arms against the Lord of Lorn, who had before driven him to extremity. Lorn was hemmed in on all sides, and was resolved to risk an engagement, which was fought in a narrow pass on the confines of the district of Lorn. The men of Lorn were commanded by John, the son of Alexander, Lord of Lorn; and he received a total defeat. This army was cut to pieces, and it was with great difficulty he and his father escaped to England. The castle of Dunstaffnage, the principal residence of Lorn, was taken, and the whole country spoiled

and subjected. Alexander, Lord of Lorn, died in England some years afterwards, but not in great penury, as Buchanan will have it. Edward the Second made an allowance to him of one hundred pounds yearly out of the revenues of the see of St. Andrews; and John de Moubray, and certain others, became sureties for his good behaviour. From this it is supposed that he afterwards inclined towards the interest of Bruce.

The affairs of Bruce in Scotland, at this period, became more flattering; nearly the whole kingdom was subjected to his dominion, a few of the chief castles and forts only holding out against him. As his matters became more prosperous, those of Edward the Second gradually decayed: the few nobles who adhered to him, and were hard pressed by Bruce, could procure nothing but promises of relief and praises for their constancy. At last, Ed-

ward was roused to activity; and, in consequence of the straits to which the garrison of Stirling was reduced, he determined to relieve it. Immense preparations were made by him: he summoned to his standard not only his English subjects, but the whole Irish chiefs, twenty-seven in number. The army assembled at Berwick, and marched towards Stirling; some say two hundred thousand strong*, others one hundred thousand †. The King of Scotland ordered his friends and subjects to assemble at Torwood, near Falkirk. He relied much on the aid of Angus, who was thought rather backward, having had to assemble his men from the whole islands, as well as from his territories in the main land. Douglas, and some other friends of Bruce, began to doubt his faith, but saw no prospect of success without

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* Robertson. † Buchanan.

him: this they hinted to Bruce, who, confident of his friendship, but aware of the difficulties he had to encounter from the extent of his possessions, entertained no doubt of his coming. Angus at last arrived, bringing with him above eight thousand men, inured to hardships, accustomed to dangers, and many of them old friends of Bruce. On the arrival of Angus, Bruce explained to him the doubts which had been entertained of his coming up in time, but added, "My hope is constant in thee;" the highest compliment that could be paid him. This generous expression of confidence was assumed as, and continues to be, the motto of the lineal representative of the family.

The Scottish troops were divided into four divisions. Bruce gave the command of the centre to Douglas and the young Stewart, the left to Randolph, and the right wing to Edward, his brother. He commanded

the reserve himself, composed of the men on whom he placed most confidence; viz. the troops of Angus, some few other Highlanders from Argyll, and his own men of Carrick. In this command he was attended by Angus and Campbell of Lochow.

On the 24th of June, 1314, the armies were engaged, and perhaps no conflict was ever more bloody. The Scots were severely annoyed by the English archers, and fell in thousands. Victory, indeed, seemed to incline towards the English side, when Bruce brought up the reserve. The brave Highlanders and the men of Carrick turned the fate of the day. The English gave way in every direction: the retreat became a complete scene of confusion and rout; many were drowned in the morasses, and many more killed in their flight. On the part of the Scots two men of consequence only were slain, Sir William Vipont and Sir Walter Ross.

The English lost above two hundred of their nobility, and nearly fifty thousand men. This action, named the battle of Bannockburn, was perhaps the most decisive ever fought, and completely secured the independence of Scotland.

The Scottish historians, from what cause it is difficult to say, hardly ever mention Angus as being present in this engagement, nor do they seem to think it necessary to allude to him particularly as the person who rendered such essential service to Bruce when he took refuge in Dunaverty. This may be accounted for from their total ignorance of the whole transactions in the Highlands of Scotland. They mention that the reserve was composed of the Highlanders and men of Carrick. From their accounts of the battle it is evident that the glory of the day was achieved by the reserve, yet they

put themselves to no trouble to ascertain who commanded with Bruce. To Angus and the Highlanders that glory is due; at least, they share it with the men of Carrick, and well deserve every praise that can be bestowed on them as the saviours of their country from a foreign yoke and dependence.

After the battle of Bannockburn, Angus returned to his own country, and settled all disputes amongst his people. The faithful services and benefits conferred by him on Robert Bruce demanded the highest reward, and these the king did not forget. The whole territories of the Lord of Lorn and of the Cumins of Lochaber fell into the hands of the crown, and great tracks were given to Angus. By one charter he obtained the lands of Kilbandein and Ardnamurchan, belonging to the clan Ean of Ardnamurchan, who had

joined the Lord of Lorn*. This clan was descended from John, the third son of Angus Moir. By another he got the lands of Lochaber pertaining to the Cumins. He likewise acquired the lands of Unscorris and Glenogweris, and various others. The king, however sensible he was that by these grants he was strengthening the power of a man too powerful for him already, could not forget his services. Had the lands been refused him, he foresaw that ruin to the kingdom might follow; and he preferred attaching him more firmly to his interest, to risking the displeasure of one who not only had it in his power at all times to distress him, but, by joining with his enemies, perhaps to deprive him of his crown. While the King was at Dunaverty, near Sanda, in Kintyre, he had an opportunity of seeing

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* Robertson's Index.

the power and influence of Angus, the vast extent of his territories, and the number and martial disposition of his followers and vassals. That power must have given him most serious trouble had he displeased him; and he afterwards found the benefit of it at the battle of Bannockburn. The lands conferred on Angus were not given without an equivalent, independent of the services rendered; for Robert Bruce received liberty to build a castle in Kintyre*—a liberty which Angus's successors felt most severely, as it at all times gave the Scottish King footing in the country, and latterly proved a powerful engine, in the hands of the after sovereigns, to ruin the power of the Lords of the Isles.

Angus married Finvola (Flora), daugh-

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* Castle of Farbert, on the Stonefield estate.

ter of O'Corhan, an Irish prince. He would not accept of any ordinary dowry with her, but insisted on having the sons of twenty-four of O'Corhan's chief vassals, to be settled within his territory, and married to daughters of vassals of his own. This was agreed to. And from these men descended many tribes; all of whom originally took the name of Macdonald, and still conceive themselves to be of that clan: viz. the Dunbars, Monroes, Mac Lellans, Mac Kys, Mac Eacherns, Mac Gilliesses, Mac Millans or Mac Gillevoils, Mac Carmicks, Mac Gilliemories or Morrisons, Mac Daffas, Mac Phees or Mac Fees, and Mac Cuins or Mac Queens.

By this marriage Angus had,

1st. John, who succeeded.

2d. Finvola or Fyngole (Flora), married to Joanni Senescallas, as appears

from a dispensation by Pope Clement the Sixth, dated 19th February, 1342. This John was a son of Walter, High Stewart of Scotland, by his (third) marriage with Isobel, sister to the gallant Sir John de Graham of Abercorn, and, of course, a brother of Robert the Second, King of Scotland.

3d. John Oig, named John of the Heath; from whom the family of Macdonald of Glenco are descended.

CHAPTER VII.

JOHN, SEVENTH AND LAST KING OF THE ISLES, AND LORD OF ARGYLL AND KINTYRE.

JOHN succeeded his father about the year 1330, and for some time continued to support the cause of David the Second of Scotland. In 1333, he sent a body of troops to assist Robert, the Steward of Scotland (afterwards Robert the Second), to recover his hereditary territories. The whole of the immense possessions of Roderick de Insulis being at the time under attainder, and these possessions being not only contiguous to his own, but belonging to a near relation of his family, and one of his own clan and vassals, he had

been promised a grant of them. This grant, however, was afterwards refused, and John became so highly offended, that he entirely withdrew his support from the interest of King David, and attached himself to Edward Baliol. The Earl of Murray, joint Regent of the kingdom of Scotland, saw the necessity of attaching the interest of John, and, immediately before his captivity, had been actively engaged in negotiating a treaty with him. The Earl wished him to swear allegiance to the King of Scotland for all his territories, which John declined doing. The Earl also claimed a right to the Isle of Skye, the islands of Mull, Tiree, Isla, and Gigha, as well as the lands of Kintyre, which, it was alleged, were annexed to the Scottish crown on Robert Bruce getting liberty from his father to build a castle in Kintyre: but John insisted that these islands and lands belonged to him, and the treaty was broken off. The

consequence was, that on the 12th of December, 1335, a formal treaty was concluded betwixt Edward Baliol and John. This treaty was in form of an indenture, and was executed at Perth. Baliol, "quantum in se est," yielded for ever to John, and his heirs and assignees, all claims to the lands and islands by the Earl of Murray, and also gave him the wardship of the heir of Atholl, at that time only three years old. On the other hand, John bound himself and his heirs to be liegemen of Baliol and his heirs, and to aid them at all times to the utmost against all their enemies. He also became bound to swear to the performance of the articles, "On the Eucharist, on the cup of the altar, and on the missal, and to grant hostages if required." This indenture was confirmed by Edward the Third on the 5th of October, 1336*.

* Rymer's Fœdera. Robertson's Index.

Thus did the King of the Isles, for the first time, acknowledge the supremacy of the King of Scotland, if Baliol may be so named, and gave up that independency which had been preserved for a period of at least three hundred years. The accession of power which John obtained by this treaty was certainly immense. The territories of the Earl of Atholl were very extensive, and the wardship of them enabled John to extend his influence into the very heart of the kingdom. It is worthy of observation, that throughout the whole indenture the words "Dare, or confirmare," never once occur; clearly proving that the Kings of the Isles never once acknowledged a superior lord over any of their territories.

David the Second being in France, and Sir Andrew Murray, the Regent, having died, Robert, the Steward of Scotland, succeeded him in 1338, and continued to

enjoy the dignity till the return of the King in 1341. There was then conferred on Robert, the Steward, and John Stewart, his son, gotten betwixt him and Elizabeth More, and, failing John, Walter, the whole district of Kintyre, belonging to John, King of the Isles, which, it was pretended, belonged to the King by reason of John's forfeiture, and joining with Baliol*.

John continued to support the Baliol interest during many years, and several new treaties of alliance were entered into. By one it was specially provided, that John, Lord of the Isles, should have the exclusive right of standing godfather to any heir of Baliol's body.

In 1351, an agreement was entered into

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* Dun. Stewart. Robertson's Index. Rymer's Fœdera.

between Edward the Third and certain commissioners from Scotland, in which John is specially included*; and during the short time the King was allowed to remain in his own dominions, he received from John a tender of his services, and finally withdrew him from Baliol.

Edward Baliol, after supporting his pretensions to the Scottish crown, for a considerable time, with courage and perseverance, seeing his friends and partisans, year after year, falling away from him, at last absolutely surrendered the Scottish kingdom to Edward the Third*. This monarch, whose military glory, resolution, enterprise, and power, were surpassed by none, soon perceived the necessity of bringing John over to his interest; and on the 31st of March, 1356, opened a

Jan 24th, 1356.

* Fœdera.

commission for this purpose, which was rendered useless by John declining to treat*.

In the same year, a truce was entered into betwixt the English and Scots, which gave a momentary tranquillity to the kingdom. The wars in France commanded the whole attention of Edward. The Black Prince, his son, had penetrated into the country farther than prudence permitted, with a force much disproportioned to that of the King of France. John, the French King, determined to cut off his retreat, and assembled an immense army. The Scottish chiefs and nobles resolved to assist him; and, amongst others, John, with a powerful body of Highlanders, went to his aid. The consequence was the famous battle of Poictiers, fought on

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* Fœdera.

the 19th of September. In this action the Scots suffered most severely. The English were commanded by the Black Prince, who took John prisoner, and he was conveyed to England. On the 16th of December, 1357, he was allowed to return to the Isles, to redeem himself, which he accordingly did.

John being now on the best terms with the King of Scotland, and having formerly acknowledged Edward Baliol as king, he transferred his allegiance to David, the king, and received from him a confirmation of all his lands, and a charter of the islands of Isla, Jura, Gigha, Colonsay, Mull, Tiree, Coll, Lewis, and the lands of Morour, Lochaber, Dundoman, and Glenchoruire, and all the small isles adjacent.

It appears that some time after this he became again discontented with the

King of Scotland, as did, indeed, the whole of the Highland clans subject to him. The deprivation of the valuable district of Kintyre, the restoration of which had been refused by the King, operated against him; and though there was, in a great measure, peace between England and Scotland, yet the King, with all his forces, was unable to bring John into any terms*. When he found force was of no avail, he attempted stratagem, and did every thing in his power to sow dissension amongst the clans, but in vain. At last, John being strongly importuned to peace by his father-in-law, Robert, Steward of Scotland, who had by this time been declared heir to the crown, he met the King at Inverness on the 15th of November, 1369. All disagreements were finally made up, and a complete recon-

* Robertson's Index.

ciliation took place, in the form of an instrument, regularly signed*.

David the Second, King of Scotland, died on the 23d of February, 1371, and was succeeded by his nephew, Robert the Second, whose daughter, Margaret, had been married to John, King of the Isles. Shortly afterwards, the King, by charter, confirmed to his son-in-law the whole territories which had belonged to Allan, the son of Roderick de Insulis, killed at Bute in 1334: viz. the extensive districts of Moidart, Acasaig, Morour, Knoydart; the islands of Wist, Barra, Rum, Eoigg, and Harries; and also the other lands which had belonged to Ranald, the son of Roderick, killed at Perth by the Earl of Ross 1346. All these lands had belonged to John of right by his former

2d March, 1372.

* Robertson's Index.

marriage with Amie, Roderick's daughter, who became heiress in consequence of both her brothers dying without issue.

Robert the Second, on succeeding to the throne of Scotland, became very anxious to aggrandise his family as much as possible. He was aware that the issue of John's marriage with his daughter could not succeed, in the ordinary line of succession, to John's territories, and he therefore was very desirous of securing to them, as far as possible, an extensive estate, fitting the progeny of a daughter of a king. The lands of Kintyre had always been a subject of contention between John and David the Second, yet never had they been rendered up; on the contrary, they were now a part of the royal domains (for, as already mentioned, they had been given by David the Second to Robert on his return from France). Robert the Second

offered to restore them, on condition that they, with the lands of Lochaber and the island of Colonsay, together with the island of Sky, should be settled on the issue of the marriage. This was agreed to; and, in furtherance of the agreement, John granted to his oldest son of the first marriage a charter* of the lands which it was determined should be settled on him.

Jan. 1. 1378. These lands consisted of the district of Moidart and castle of Islandtirram, the districts of Acasaig and Morow, and the district of Knoydart, the islands of Eigg, Rum, Wist (which embraced North and South Wist and Benbecula), and the castle of Vyneuvawle or Benbecula, the islands of Barra, and the island of Herries. Certain other lands of Sunart, Letter, Locheil,

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* This charter was confirmed by the King. Reg. Mag. Sig. See App. No. 5.

Algour, Howlaste, and part of Lochaber, with the lands of Lochy, Kelmald, and Locharkaig; the latter forming sixty merk-lands. John afterwards granted to his second son of the first marriage, named John, the large and valuable island of Isla, and a great part of the island of Mull; and to Alexander, the third son of the same marriage, he gave the lands of Keppoch and the rest of the island of Mull. Having done this, he resigned his other lands and territories into the King's hands; and, on the 6th of June, 1377, obtained charters *de novo* to himself, and Margaret his wife, in liferent, and the children of that marriage in fee. Two of these charters, which are extant, proceed upon John's resignation; but the third, which contains the lands of Kintyre, merely grants these lands and the lands of Knapdale, and, specifically, from the tenor shows that they belonged to the King.

John died, at a very advanced age, in 1387. He was twice married. First, to Amie,* daughter and heiress of Roderick of the Isles, a relation of his own. By this marriage he had five sons and one daughter.

1st. Reginald, or Ranald, who carried down the regular line of succession in the family of Clanranald.

2d. John, usually designed John Moir of Isla and Kintyre; of whom the Macdonalds of Sanda, the Earls of Antrim, and other Macdonalds, in Ireland.

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* Dispensation by Pope Benedict the Twelfth. "Joanni quondam Eangusii de Isle Soderen et Amie quondam Roderici de Insulis, 1337." Andrew Stewart, p. 446.

3d. Alexander; of whom the once powerful and distinguished family of Keppoch.

4th. Godfrey, who died without issue.

5th. Donald, who also died without issue.

6th. Margaret, married to Latolamio, son of John Mac Grillon, as appears from a dispensation of Pope Urban the Fifth, 1336. This John Mac Grillon or Gillean was chief of the Mac Leans of Dovart.

John married, secondly, Margaret, daughter of Robert the Second, King of Scotland. By her he had,

1st. Donald, who married Margaret, heiress of the earldom of Ross; of whom

the Earls of Ross till the attainder, and now Lord Macdonald.

2d. Elizabeth, married to William, Earl of Sutherland, who had before been married to Margaret, daughter to Robert the First, King of Scotland.

CHAPTER VIII.

JOHN MOIR OF KINTYRE AND ISLA, SECOND SON OF JOHN, LAST INDEPENDENT KING OF THE ISLES.

This distinguished warrior lived in a turbulent period, supporting the falling fortunes of his house. Prior to his time the Macdonalds knew no superiors: acting as independent princes, they were known to, and acknowledged as such by, the surrounding nations, and from the histories of these nations much of the history of the clan is to be discovered; but, from the time they became subjects of the crown of Scotland, that source of information is lost; and from the public records of the country, where occasional

efforts for maintaining the remnants of their once great property are preserved, and from private family papers, is any information to be obtained; for the historians of these times take little or no notice of this powerful people, and, in general, represent their noble struggle to maintain their independence as rebellion against the king of Scotland.

The earlier Kings of the Isles had little or no communication with the kingdom of Scotland; the people of which they termed Saxons, synonymous, in their language, to strangers. They knew not the Scottish language, and the people were looked upon as intruders into the country. The Highlanders formed alliances with the Scandinavians, whose manners and habits were more congenial to their own. The conquest of the Isles, and erection of the kingdom of Man, led them to have frequent intercourse with the Norwegians,

from whom they acquired a knowledge of many arts and sciences. Their intercourse with Ireland was uninterrupted; and the peculiar situation of their country, intersected with innumerable bays and inlets of the sea, soon rendered them formidable as a naval power. The strength of their navy may be judged of from Somerlett having employed one hundred ships in the reduction of the island of Man. These could not have been very small, when it is considered what seas they had to encounter. And even John, Lord of the Isles, at a much later period, gave to his son Reginald sixty ships, in addition to his lands.

Religion was much respected in the country. Reginald, the son of Somerlett, founded an abbey in Kintyre, and his successors were constantly adding to it. In the remote island of Benbecula a nunnery was erected, and the lands around

it bear the name of Nuntown even at this time. Indeed, those who are at all acquainted with the Highlands of Scotland must form a very favourable idea of the encouragement given to the arts and sciences during the reigns of the earlier Kings of the Isles, from the number, extent, and solidity of the religious houses, castles, and fortifications, whose venerable ruins are at this day scattered over the whole country and islands. It is in vain to look for buildings of the same era in the south, if we except a few religious establishments, built by foreigners, for David the First and Alexander the Second.

The Kings of the Isles, at all times, maintained a small regular army: they lived in the castles, of which the army formed, with their vassals, the garrisons, and were at all times at the call of their superiors. Independent of these, each

vassal was bound, when required, to furnish his lord with a certain number of men. All kinds of athletic exercises were taught and encouraged. Leaping, running, throwing the stone, and wrestling were favourite exercises; and the chase found them food as well as amusement. The man who was superior to his fellows was sure of reward, and emulation existed in no small degree. These exercises inured the people to fatigue, while it added much to their activity and strength.

The devotion which the vassals paid to their chief is well known, and we may easily conceive the respect in which their king was held. The memory of Somerlett and his successors is still revered in the countries which were subject to their sway; no act of injustice or oppression is traditionally mentioned. Men's good deeds are buried with them, but the me-

mory of their bad actions lasts for ages; and no higher compliment can be paid to the memory of these powerful princes than "that no ill is known of them." Justice was regularly administered; and, though the modern forms of it were wanting, no man was ever known to have suffered unjustly. Castles were built, at convenient stations, for the residence of their kings when making their annual circuits; by which means they had always an opportunity of witnessing the condition of their people. Their wealth must have been greater than could have been supposed, if an estimate can be formed from the present state of the country. The intercourse with the Scandinavians and Irish must have led them to exchange such commodities as were useful to both. Without money they never could have built these castles and fortifications, the ruins of which now ornament their coun-

try. Many, of very great extent, still exist; such as Castleterrim*, Vynevawle, Dunstaffnage, Kerneburgh, Dunaverty, and Dunconnel. All these were built in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. In the Chronicle of Man it is mentioned, that William the Lyon having seized upon Caithness, the lord of it, through some friends, offered a sum of money to be re-established. This the monarch would not accede to, unless he would divorce his wife, the daughter of Malcolm Mactod†, and take back his former wife, daughter of Duncan, Earl of Fife. The Lord of Caithness would not concur in this; and, "venit ergo Reginaldus, filius Somerlett, Rex de Mannia et Insularum, ad Regem Scotiæ." Such a purchase could not have

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* Built by Amie, daughter of Roderick de Insulis.

† Celtic Prince of Murray, who married a sister of Somerlett, King of the Isles.

been made without a great sum of money, and Reginald must have had the command of considerable revenues. The power of the Kings of the Isles was great: that man who, as Somerlett did, could form the resolution of conquering Scotland, must have known his resources; and all his actions displayed his ability and his strength. There is now an epitaph upon one of the tombstones of the family in Icolmkill, which emphatically expresses the opinion they themselves conceived of their strength.—"Macdonuil fato hic." No power but that of fate could lay Macdonald here. There is preserved, also, a charter equally characteristic.—"I Donald, chief of the Clandonuil, give here in my castle, a right to Mackay, to Kilmahumaig, from this day till tomorrow, and so on for ever."

So long as the Kings of the Isles remained unconnected in any way with the

Scottish crown, their power was secure. The extent of their territories, the martial disposition of the people, and the situation of the country, surrounded on all sides by immense mountains and innumerable islands, rendered any attempt upon them almost hopeless. Robert Bruce was the first who had an opportunity of observing personally their situation and consequence, and he reaped the benefit of their strength. He saw that, by conferring on Angus Oig any additional territory, he was only strengthening a man too powerful for him already; while, on the other hand, had he declined the gift, he was aware that it could be taken without him, and he would be creating an enemy in one who, by joining with Baliol, might hurl him from the throne. Robert II. again, during the whole period he governed the kingdom, either for King David or himself, saw the necessity of checking the power of the Lords of the Isles. To attack that power

openly he knew would be fruitless; and it was, perhaps, one of the best acts of his reign, that he succeeded in getting his son-in-law, John, to divide his territories. That act, however, proved the ruin of the power of the Macdonalds, who, from being governed by one independent prince, suddenly divided themselves into various cepts. Even these cepts gave the greatest uneasiness to the crown: many fruitless expeditions were made against them, but the whole power of Scotland could not bring them to obedience. The cepts or clans existing at this time, that is, after the death of John, Lord of the Isles, were the clan Ranald, clan Jen-vor of Kintyre and Isla, who may be called the immediate ancestor of the Sanda family, clan Donald, the clan Jen of Ardnamurchan, and many collateral branches. Jen Vor of Kintyre and Isla appears to have been a very distinguished person in 1407; as, in the genealogical history of the Mac-Intoshes,

he is mentioned as cotemporary with a Lochlan Moir Mac-Intosh, who died in 1407, in these words: "Contemporaone huic Lochlano fuerent hi tres vir Johannes Moir Mac Ean vir Insulis Oig de Kintyre et Isla*." The battle of Harlaw convinced the crown that nothing was to be done by force. Euphemia, Countess of Ross, was married, 1st, to Sir Walter Lessly, by whom she had one son, Alexander, Earl of Ross, and a daughter, Margaret, married to Donald, the son of John, Lord of the Isles, who afterwards assumed that title. Alexander married Isabella Stewart, daughter of the Duke of Albany, and had one child, named Euphemia. This Euphemia became a nun, and resigned the estates and dignities in favour of her uncle, John, Earl of

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* Man. in the Advocate's Library.—"De origine et incremento Mac-Intosheorum," page 208.

Buchan, second son of the Duke of Albany, and the heirs male, whom failing, to return to the crown; thus cutting off Margaret, wife of Donald, the heir general. On this resignation being made, John, Earl of Buchan, assumed the title, and took possession of the lands, but Donald did not tamely allow him. It was conceived a complete affront against the whole clan, who rose in arms with him, and were joined by the Mac-Leans and Mac-Intoshes. It was supposed that the whole had been a contrivance of Robert, Duke of Albany, governor of the kingdom, to reduce the power of the Macdonalds, and elevate his own family. The clans marched into Ross, and laid waste the whole country, defeated Angus Dow Mackay of Strathnaver, took him prisoner, and killed his brother, Rorie Gald. They then marched into Murray and Garrioch, which were laid waste; and their intention was to proceed to Aberdeen,

and so on to the south. They then encountered the governor's forces at Harlaw, 1411; the battle continued from morning till the darkness of the night separated them. The victory was doubtful; but, says Buchanan, "In the fight there fell so many eminent and noble personages, as scarcely ever perished in one battle, against a foreign enemy, for many years before. On the part of the clans there were killed Mac-Lean and Mac-Intosh. On the part of the governor, Sir Alexander Ogilvie, sheriff of Angus; Sir James Scrymgeour, constable of Dundee; Sir Robert Maule, of Panmure; Sir Alexander Murray; Sir Alexander Streatton, of Laurieston; and Sir Robert Davidson, provost of Aberdeen. This battle convinced the government of the country that the clans, when united, were too powerful for it; and the succeeding monarchs adopted a plan far more secure, but less obvious to the people, that of sowing dissensions

amongst the clans themselves, by creating jealousies, and, latterly, inveterate hatred against each other."

Pitscottie has recorded an advice given by Bishop Kennedy to James II. as to the method of reducing the power of the Douglasses, and it perfectly applies to the plans adopted for the reduction of the grandeur of the Macdonald family.—"The said Bishop pulled out a great sheaf of arrows, knit together in a guhang of leather, and delivered them to the King in his hand, and bade him set them to his knee, and break them. The King answered, it is impossible, because there is so many together of the said arrows, and knit so fast together with leather, that no man can break them at once. The Bishop answered, that is true; but yet he would let the King see that he could break them, and pulled out one by one or two by two till he had broke them all; and said unto

the King, Sir, you must even do in this manner with your barons that have risen against you, which are so many in number, and knit so fast in conspiracy against you, that you in no ways can get them broken, but by this practick that I have shown you by the similitude of the arrows; that is to say, you must conquess and break by lord and lord by himself, for ye may not deal with them all at once." Such a plan as this recommended was adopted by the sovereigns to reduce the Macdonalds.

Donald, who fought the battle of Harlaw, died in France in the year 1427. His son Alexander was restored to the dignity in 1444, and died in 1448, or 1449, leaving three sons, John, Hugh, and Celestine. John became Earl of Ross, but was too powerful to be kept under by the weak and irresolute governors of the kingdom. Continued feuds existed be-

tween him and the neighbouring clans, particularly the clan Ky of Strathnaver, and the clan Mackenzie, then beginning to rise in importance. The feuds were fomented by the Earl of Douglas, and Duke of Ormond; and John was attainted in 1475. He was restored to a small part of his lands 1476, but the earldom was perpetually annexed to the crown. From the ruins of his family that of Mackenzie sprung, now one of the most powerful clans in the eastern Highlands.

The family of John Moir of Kintyre and Isla, second son of the first marriage of John, Lord of the Isles, though it maintained its independence for a much longer period, was at last reduced by the same secret but powerful means. Few families, in so short a time, ever rose to greater power. John himself assisted his brother Donald at the battle of Harlaw, and having died soon afterwards, he was succeeded by

his son Donald, a very distinguished warrior, and well known in those perilous times by the name of Donald Balloch. He it was who fought the battle of Inverlochy, in 1428, against the forces of James the First, commanded by the Earls of Caithness and Mar; killed the latter, with almost all his men, and laid waste the whole country with fire and sword. The family was attainted, yet possessed their lands and power undiminished. James the Fourth held a parliament at Kintyre in 1493, where he endeavoured, by every means in his power, to weaken the strength of the Macdonalds. It was during the minority of the young chief of Kintyre and Isla; and he wished the vassals to take out charters *de novo* from himself: in this he met with little success.

The same monarch made a voyage through the Isles, for the purpose of administering justice in person, and establish-

ing his authority. He landed at Kilkurran in Kintyre, in the absence of Macdonald of Kintyre and Isla, but within a mile of his residence, took possession of the old castle, which he fortified, placed a garrison in it, and a governor. Macdonald returned, stormed the castle, and hung the governor in the very sight of the King, who was glad to escape, without taking further notice of the matter.

Some time before this period, the Campbells had got a footing in Argyllshire, by marrying the heiress of Dearmit O'Duin, a Celtic proprietor of Lochow. Sir Niel Campbell was much favoured by Robert Bruce, and obtained a grant of part of the lands belonging to the Lord of Lorn. His successors adopted, and pursued with uncommon address, success, and perseverance, a system of aggrandisement, supported by the influence of the crown of Scotland. In proportion as they became

strong, the Macdonalds became weaker: they were the willing and interested instruments of the crown, in executing the plan for abridging and destroying the Macdonalds' power. They succeeded, by fomenting quarrels, to create hostilities amongst the clans, and thereby alternately succeeded in reducing the Macdonalds of Kintyre to a state of vassalage, or entirely extirpating them.

At the battle of Inverlochy, Donald Balloch was greatly assisted by his relation, Eachin Reaudh-ni-carh, or Hector Rufus Balliedus, the powerful chieftain of the Mac-Leans*. The clan Mac-Lean having, however, soon afterwards formed an alliance with the Campbells, became in their hands an active and interested tool

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* Man. Advocate's Library. Genealogical Collections, vol. i. p. 177.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

for the suppression of the Macdonalds; and the Mac-Leans having done the filthy work, became in their turn the victims of the Fair, or False, Clan Campbell. The manuscript of the family of Mac-Intosh gives the following account of Donald Balloch, and the battle of Inverlochy, 1430.—" Interea temporis Donaldus Balloch, Alexandri comitis de Rossii patruelis, velut injuriam propinquo, illum tam ulterius novum excitavit tumultum, ad quem supprimendum Alexander et Allanus Stuarti, Marriæ et Cathnesiæ comites, quibus Malcolumbus Mac-Intosh ex mandato regis se adjunxit; coacta populorum manu ad Inverlochiam profecti sunt, ubi Donaldi adventuum prestabuntur. Nam ille quotidie se venturum et prœlia cum illis conferturum pollicebatur. Interim comitum exercitu, annonæ inopia multum presso, quidam tribuum ductores, inter quos Milcolumbus Mac-Intoshius erat unus, adjunctas terras vi Ardnamurchan,

Suinard, et Glenelg per grave eorumque armenta auferre mandantur. Quibus absentibus Donaldus rem astu tractare instruens de quarta vigilia suis sine tumultu expositus, conatus inopinantes et semisomnes aggressus magnam stragem cecidit. Periunt illic Alanus comes cum fere suis omnibus, et Alexander Marriæ comes trepida fuga cum paucis evasit." As might be expected, from the formidable resistance he made, Donald Balloch suffered forfeiture, and died in exile: he was succeeded by John Macdonald of Kintyre and Isla, who, on making his submission, was restored to a part of his extensive estates; but having put to death the chief of the Mac-Leans, with a number of his followers, who had taken refuge in Isla*, he was in his turn forfeited, and expelled from the country, and died in

* History of the Mac-Leans in the Advocate's Library.

Ireland. He was succeeded by Ranald Macdonald of Kintyre and Isla. Of this person very little is known: from the proceedings of the Privy Council of Scotland he seems to have been very active in the disturbances which frequently agitated that part of Kintyre about that period, as he appears to have been forfeited, and restored again, on more than one occasion. During his life, however, the parts of their estates which remained to them were not diminished. He was succeeded by John Macdonald of Kintyre and Isla, between whom and the Mac-Leans there appears to have been constant warfare; the latter instigated by the Campbells to commit devastation on the island of Isla, which, when retaliated by Macdonald, by a descent on Mull, where the Argyll family had about this time got a footing, afforded matter of complaint to the crown, and not unfrequently was the means of the Argylls obtaining "Letters of Fire

and Sword;" in fact, a warrant of extirpation against the Macdonalds, who were obliged to purchase a temporary peace by the surrender of more of their property; whereby the power of Argyll increased, and that of the Macdonalds diminished. This John strengthened the old fortress of Dunaverty, his principal strong-hold at the southern extremity of Kintyre, and where the power of Argyll had never yet ventured to attack him: he became reconciled to government, and in favour at court, where his son was knighted. He was succeeded by Sir Alexander Macdonald of Kintyre and Isla, in common with the whole clan of Macdonald. He remained faithful to the cause of the Stewarts, and, after the martyrdom of Charles I. continued in arms under the great Montrose. After the death of that gallant general, and dispersion of his little army, Argyll, who had with a crooked policy (for which he afterwards suffered),

joined the Covenanters, considered this a favourable opportunity entirely to crush the power of the Macdonalds, and to get possession of their remaining lands: he represented their loyal conduct in such a manner to the Protector and the Committee of Estates of Parliament as to induce them to send Lieutenant-General Leslie, one of the most experienced captains of those times, all the way to Kintyre, for the purpose of extirpating the clan. Sir Alexander Macdonald, then very old, and but little skilled in war (his men having been commanded, under Montrose, by his son, Sir James Macdonald, an accomplished gentleman and experienced commander, who had served in the wars on the continent), feeling himself unfit to stand this torrent, fled, and took refuge in the island of Isla, without making any attempt to interrupt the march of General Leslie's army, which might have been done with success at various passes,

especially at Slievegoill. Sir James Macdonald, who also was entrusted with the command of the Irish auxiliaries, had, after the breaking up of Montrose's army, retired to Ireland, and remained there, to keep together so large a body of Irish, in case of some favourable opportunity offering to restore their lawful sovereign; so that, on this emergency, the services of so able a commander were lost to the clan. The command therefore devolved on Archibald Moir Macdonald of Sanda, his brother, a very gallant and experienced officer, who had also served under Montrose, assisted by Archibald (Oigg or Young), his son. They, with a few of the clan Macdongall who had joined them, threw themselves into the strong castle of Dunaverty, adjoining to Sanda. General Leslie, having been joined by the Marquis of Argyll and a vast number of his clan, who joined him as he went along, proceeded to, and regularly in-

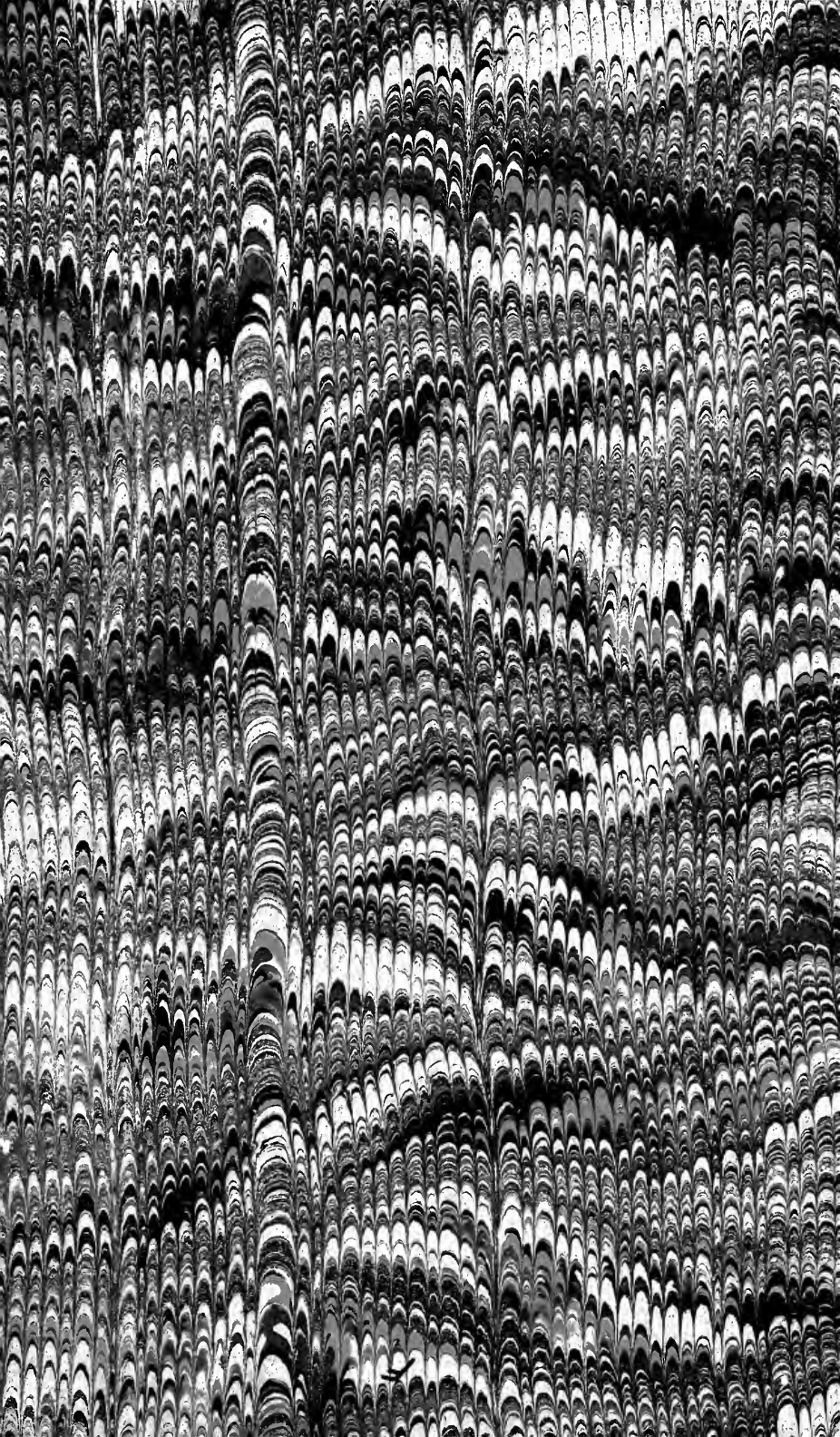
vested, the castle of Dunaverty, which was for a considerable time most gallantly defended against an army ten times the number of the garrison. At length, Argyll having discovered and cut off the supply of water, the besieged were under the necessity of surrendering at discretion, and, certainly, under the understanding of personal safety; but no sooner did Argyll's army get admission, than as disgraceful, bloody, and indiscriminate a massacre took place as the pen of history ever recorded. Sir James Turner, who was adjutant-general to Leslie's army, gives an account of this butchery too shocking to be here repeated. In this indiscriminate carnage Archibald Moir, as well as his gallant son, fell, and, with them, the power of the Macdonalds of Kintyre and Isla, who from this period may be said to be no more a clan. Sir Alexander, who died in Isla, was succeeded by his eldest son. Sir James Macdonald,

already mentioned, who had gone to Ireland with the Irish auxiliaries raised on the extensive properties of his relative the Earl of Antrim, died there: never having married, he left no issue. His brother, Archibald Moir Macdonald of Sanda, who would have succeeded, was, as has been related, killed in the bloody massacre of Dunaverty; and his son and heir, Archibald Oig Macdonald Younger of Sanda, also was slain in the same cruel and disgraceful manner. This Archibald Oig was succeeded by his only son, Ronald Macdonald of Sanda, then an infant at the breast. He and his nurse, Macbainbridge, had been taken into the garrison, as a place of safety, on the approach of the enemy; and, during the shocking massacre which ensued, this faithful and attached nurse contrived to escape with young Ronald, and sought refuge in a remote cave near the Mull of Kintyre; where she remained concealed with her

charge until General Leslie and the Marquis of Argyll, having completed their conquest by the destruction of the old castle of Dunaverty, had retired. This Ronald became a person of considerable consequence. He married Dame Anne Stewart, sister to the first Marquis of Bute; thereby strengthened the interest of his family, and obtained charters to some of his lands from the Bishop of Whitehaven; it being the policy of the Argyll family to prevent the Macdonalds obtaining charters from any others than themselves: but at this time the Argyll interest was low, the Marquis having suffered on the scaffold. Ronald was succeeded by his eldest son, Archibald Macdonald of Sanda, who possessed his estate in peace, without any farther molestation from the family of Argyll, the successor to the Marquis having proved a good and great man. Archibald married Helen Cunningham, daughter of

Cunningham of Caddel, now of Thornton in Ayrshire. He was succeeded by his eldest son, John Macdonald of Sanda, a gentleman well known and much respected; and his cheerful hospitality is still recollected with pleasure by the few of his surviving contemporaries. He married Miss Penelope Mackinnon, daughter of Mackinnon of Mackinnon: of which marriage there were three sons, Archibald, John, and Robert. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Archibald Macdonald of Sanda, who was educated for the Scotch bar; a gentleman of much suavity of manners, much respected and liked, and his memory is cherished by many of his surviving friends now at the bar. He died unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother, John Macdonald Kinneir of Sanda, a gentleman of the most amiable disposition and manners, and whose memory is much cherished by all who knew him. He married Miss C.

M. Kinneir, of Kinneir in the county of Fife. By this marriage he had five sons and five daughters: 1st, the eldest son, Sir John, was many years British Envoy at the Court of Persia, where he died; 2d, William, Archdeacon of Wilts; 3d, Archibald, Captain in the Royal Navy; 4th, David, Captain in the Indian Navy; and, 5th, Alexander, in the Indian Army, and Political Agent at Mhow, in Central India, where he died A. D. 1826.

THE END.

1885